

Jeremiah 8:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will surely consume them, saith the LORD: there shall be no grapes on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree, and the leaf shall fade; and the things that I have given them shall pass away from them.

Analysis

This verse uses harvest imagery to announce judgment: 'I will surely consume them, saith the LORD.' The Hebrew *asoph asiph* (אֶסֹף אֶסִּיף) uses an emphatic verbal construction—'I will utterly gather them away/consume them.' The agricultural imagery follows: 'there shall be no grapes on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree, and the leaf shall fade.' Vines and figs represent covenant blessing (1 Kings 4:25, Micah 4:4); their failure signals covenant curse (Deuteronomy 28:38-40). 'And the things that I have given them shall pass away from them' indicates loss of all God had provided—land, produce, prosperity, even national existence. The verse may anticipate Jesus' cursing of the barren fig tree (Matthew 21:18-19), symbolizing fruitless Israel's judgment.

Historical Context

Viticulture and fig cultivation were central to Judah's agricultural economy. Archaeological evidence shows extensive terraced vineyards and orchards throughout the Judean hill country. The vine and fig tree symbolized prosperity and security. Their destruction represented complete economic collapse—exactly what occurred during Babylon's invasions when agricultural infrastructure was devastated. The theme of fruitless Israel appears throughout the prophets (Isaiah 5:1-7, Hosea 9:10) and into Jesus' ministry.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does spiritual fruitlessness invite divine judgment, and what constitutes genuine spiritual fruit?
2. What warning does this verse offer to those who enjoy God's blessings without producing corresponding faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

אֶסְרָא	אֶסִּיפִי מֵ	נֵאֻמִּם	יְהוָה ה	אֵין	עֵנֵב יִם
I will surely	consume	them saith	the LORD		there shall be no grapes
H622	H5486	H5002	H3068	H369	H6025
בְּגִפְן	וְאֵין	בְּתֵאנָה ה	בְּתֵאנָה ה	וְהָעֵלֶה	נֵב ל
on the vine		nor figs	nor figs	and the leaf	shall fade
H1612	H369	H8384	H8384	H5929	H5034
וְאֵת	לָהּ מ	יַעֲבֹרוּם:			
and the things that I have given		them shall pass away			
H5414	H1992	H5674			

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 21:19 (Parallel theme): And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.

Joel 1:7 (Parallel theme): He hath laid my vine waste, and barked my fig tree: he hath made it clean bare, and cast it away; the branches thereof are made white.

Jeremiah 17:8 (Parallel theme): For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

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